

STAT

AP  
29 NOVEMBER 1982

### BRITISH SPIES;

FORMER DIPLOMAT PLEADS GUILTY TO PASSING SECRETS; DETAILS  
LONDON (AP) - RHONA JANET RITCHIE, A FORMER SECOND SECRETARY AT THE  
BRITISH EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV, PLEADED GUILTY TODAY TO PASSING BRITISH  
GOVERNMENT SECRETS TO HER LOVER, AN EGYPTIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL.  
MISS RITCHIE, 30, ADMITTED TO ONE COUNT OF WRONGFULLY COMMUNICATING  
INFORMATION TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON.

IT WAS THE SECOND PROSECUTION UNDER BRITAIN'S OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT  
IN THREE WEEKS. ON NOV. 10, GEOFFREY PRIME, A FORMER TRANSLATOR AT THE  
TOP-SECRET GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS HEADQUARTERS IN CHELTENHAM,  
PLEADED GUILTY TO CHARGES OF PASSING SECRETS TO THE SOVIET UNION AND  
WAS SENTENCED TO 35 YEARS IN PRISON.

BRITISH NEWSPAPERS HEADLINED REPORTS TODAY OF ANOTHER SPY CASE IN  
WHICH BRITISH MILITARY SECRETS MAY HAVE BEEN PASSED BY A BRITISH ARMY  
SPY RING THROUGH THE SOVIET EMBASSY TO ARGENTINA, BRITAIN'S FOE IN  
LAST SPRING'S FALKLAND ISLANDS CONFLICT.

AT A HEARING IN LONDON'S OLD BAILEY CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT, ATTORNEY  
GENERAL SIR MICHAEL HAYERS SAID THAT BETWEEN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR  
AND FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, MISS RITCHIE DISCLOSED THE CONTENTS OF FIVE  
SECRET DIPLOMATIC TELEGRAMS TO REFAT EL-ANSARY, HER COUNTERPART AT  
THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY.

SINCE EGYPT HAS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN, "THE DAMAGE TO OUR  
COUNTRY'S INTERESTS WAS NOT IN THE EVENT GREAT," HAYERS SAID.  
HE DESCRIBED MISS RITCHIE'S ACTIONS AS "MORE FOOLISH THAN WICKED."  
ACCORDING TO HAYERS, FOUR OF THE TELEGRAMS - MARKED "CONFIDENTIAL"  
- WERE FROM THEN-BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY LORD CARRINGTON TO  
THEN-SECRETARY OF STATE ALEXANDER M. HAIG JR. AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS  
SAYING BRITAIN WOULD TAKE PART IN A MULTINATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE  
IN THE SINAI. THEIR CONTENTS, HAYERS SAID, WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE  
BECOME KNOWN.

BUT A FIFTH, WHICH HAYERS SAID WAS THE "MOST SENSITIVE," GAVE  
CARRINGTON'S VIEWS ON VARIOUS MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS. ITS CONTENTS WERE  
"KNOWN TO WASHINGTON BUT OBVIOUSLY BETTER NOT KNOWN TO OTHERS," THE  
PROSECUTOR SAID.